

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraphs:

According to the present invention as claimed in Claim 1, a process is provided for pre-printing the metallized glass microspheres web with an etching-resistant material to the etchable metal layer corresponding to a desired pattern of non-etchable aluminum, allowing the etching solution to react with the aluminum layer to demetallized the non-protected surface, washing with water and drying the microspheres web.

Thus, the present invention is a continuous method for producing a printed retroreflective material for making articles of clothing, said articles of clothing having aesthetic look, good laundering durability and high visibility corresponding to specific requirements for a minimum coefficient of retro-reflection (cd/1x.m²) indicated by European Standard EN 471/1994 (related to high visibility warning clothing) and/or EN 13356/2001 (related to visibility accessories for non-professional use), said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a carrier sheet with an adhesive on the carrier;
- (b) partially embedding onto the adhesive a monolayer of transparent glass microspheres having a refractive index between about 1.4 and about 2.7, to a depth averaging around 35-40 percent of their average diameters;
- (c) coating a thin layer of a two-component polyurethane resin;
- (d) applying a specularly reflective mirror of aluminum by vacuum deposition;
- (e) printing a non-etchable pattern onto the aluminum layer;
- (f) passing said web material through a demetallization bath of sodium hydroxide and a washing station to remove etchable, non-protected surface and drying the web;

- (g) applying, by a vacuum process, two layers of dielectric mirror;
- (h) coating a polyurethane binder layer and laminate with a textile base;
- (i) stripping away the support layer.